REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action dated July 26, 2005.

The Examiner rejected claims 25-29 under 25 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mark et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,303,313.

Mark et al. disclose a method for compressing a digital image having a plurality of pixels. The pixels may be non-binary images which are separated into bit plates and compressing some or all of these bit planes using the techniques described by Mark et al. Insofar as there is a correlation between certain of the bit planes and dominant symbol-based patterns, this can compress the images better than non-symbol matching methods. See, Mark et al., column 17, lines 4-10.

Claim 25 has been amended to patentably distinguish over Mark et al. by claiming the arrangement of the image in bit planes, and then compression a first bit plane, compression of a second and third bit plane together as a group, separate from the first bit plane.

Mark et al. fails to suggest nor disclose compressing an image using a combination of a first bit plane, and second/third bit planes as a group.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 25-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin L. Russell
Reg. No. 38,292
Tel No.: (503) 227-5631